

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4014

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12496

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CGEN,US, UR

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S LUNCH WITH KORNIYENKO: LENINGRAD-SAN  
FRANCISCO STAFFING

REF: MOSCOW 12233; STATE 207035

1. DURING AMBASSADOR'S SEPTEMBER 2 LUNCH WITH KORNIYENKO, LATTER RAISED QUESTION OF STAFFING RATIO FOR SAN FRANCISCO AND LENINGRAD CONGENS. HE REITERATED WITH SOME ASPERITY USUAL LINE THAT, BY USING LOCALS AND THIRD-COUNTRY PERSONNEL IN LENINGRAD, WE HAVE MORE PEOPLE ON THE SPOT THAN THEY DO IN SAN FRANCISCO. (HE CLAIMED EXCESS OF 50 FOR US IN LENINGRAD.) HE THEN STATED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED STUDY OF US TDY'S TO LENINGRAD OVER PAST SIX MONTHS, AND HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT MORE THAN 30 US OFFICIALS HAD GONE TO LENINGRAD OVER THIS PERIOD FROM U.S. AND THIRD COUNTRIES FOR DUTIES OF TWO WEEKS OR MORE. HE ASSERTED THAT SOVIETS, IN CONTRAST, HAD SENT ONLY ONE PERSON TDY TO SAN FRANCISCO DURING THIS PERIOD. THEREFORE, HE CONCLUDED, U.S. IS FURTHER INCREASING DISPARITY OF PERSONNEL AVAILABLE TO DO WORK IN CONGENS BY EXTENSIVE USE OF TDY ASSIGNMENTS, AND THAT MFA CAN HARDLY REMAIN INDIFFERENT TO THIS. GIVEN OUR POSITION ON STAFFING FORMULA, HE SAW NO ALTERNATIVE TO SOVIETS RESORTING TO ONE-FOR-ONE FORMULA FOR TDY TRAVEL TO CONGENS.

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2. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT REASONS WE CONSIDER STAFFING FORMULA FAIR AND INDEED GENEROUS, SAID THAT FIGURES CITED SEEMED FAR OUT OF LINE WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF SITUATION, AND NOTED THAT MOST OF TDY ASSIGNMENTS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED WERE RELATED TO COMPLETING BUILDING ADAPTATION AND ELEVATOR INSTALLATION. HE SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE FOR THE INTERESTS OF BOTH SIDES IF THE SOVIETS ATTEMPTED TO INTERFERE WITH TDY TRAVEL.

3. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT SOVIETS HAVE DECIDED THAT THEIR NEED FOR TDY TRAVEL TO SAN FRANCISCO IS LESS THAN OURS FOR TRAVEL LENINGRAD, AND THAT WE ARE THEREFORE VULNERABLE TO RETALIATION IN THIS REGARD. (IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT KORNIYENKO'S DEFINITION OF "TDY TRAVEL" SEEMED TO EXCLUDE CONSULTATION VISITS FROM EMBASSIES AS WELL AS BRIEF VISITS FROM ELSEWHERE BY OFFICIALS WHO DO NOT ACTUALLY PERFORM WORK IN CONGENS.) IF HIS ASSERTION IS CORRECT THAT SOVIETS HAVE MADE SCANT USE OF TDY ASSIGNMENTS TO SAN FRANCISCO IN RECENT MONTHS, IT APPEARS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT AN ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO LIMIT OUR TDY ASSIGNMENTS TO LENINGRAD, UNLESS WE ARE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE OUR ABILITY AND WILLINGNESS TO DISCOMFIT THE SOVIETS TO A COMPARABLE DEGREE. THEIR PROPOSAL TO ASSIGN A CORRESPONDENT TO SAN FRANCISCO IS OBVIOUSLY ONE WHICH WE CAN DENY AS LONG AS OUR TDY TRAVEL IS CALLED INTO QUESTION. HOWEVER, THIS ALONE DOES NOT PROVIDE MUCH LEVERAGE, AND WE WOULD IN ANY CASE HOPE FOR A SPECIFIC QUID PRO QUO BEFORE A SOVIET CORRESPONDENT IS ACCREDITED IN SAN FRANCISCO. MORE PERTINENT, PERHAPS, WOULD BE A THREAT TO CURTAIL SOVIET TDY TRAVEL TO NEW YORK, IF SUCH A POSSIBILITY EXISTS.

4. ALTHOUGH THIS ISSUE WILL NOT BE RESOLVED BY DEBATING SOVIET ASSERTIONS, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE A RUN-DOWN FROM LENINGRAD ON THE USE OF TDY PERSONNEL OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS TO PERFORM SERVICES AT THE CONSULATE. WE WOULD ALSO, OF COURSE, WELCOME FURTHER COMMENT AND SUGGESTIONS FROM LENINGRAD.  
STOESSEL

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